



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

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January 8, 2001

John Ledger
Associated Oregon Industries
1149 Court Street NE
Salem OR, 97301

Re: Columbia River TMDLs

Dear John:

Attached is a copy of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that sets out roles and responsibilities for how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the States of Oregon, Idaho and Washington will coordinate development of TMDLs for the Columbia and Snake River mainstems. Very broadly, the MOA provides for EPA to take the lead on developing temperature TMDLs, and for the States to take the lead on total dissolved gas, and other parameters listed on the 303 (d) list for the lower river.

Development of the TMDLs needs to begin immediately and will require careful coordination, cooperation and management by all parties. Under a court-ordered settlement of a TMDL lawsuit filed by environmental groups, TMDLs for the Columbia River mainstem are scheduled to be developed by December 31, 2001. These TMDLs are particularly important environmentally, not only due to water quality problems, but also the presence of several salmon species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

DEQ is committed to developing TMDLs with meaningful stakeholder involvement, both during TMDL development and through the formal public comment process. DEQ will endeavor to follow this model in its work on the Columbia and Snake River TMDLs, even though the short deadline for completion will make this difficult.

A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement can be found on our web site (<http://waterquality.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm>). If you have any further questions, please contact Russell Harding at (503) 229-5284 or harding.russell@deg.state.or.us.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hallock
Director